

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 04042 211133Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ITC-01 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 EB-07 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 EPG-02 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03
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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5494

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PASS TO THOMAS KIVLIN, OTP

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, US, BD
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR BANGLADESH FOR GSP TREATMENT OF
HANDICRAFT EXPORTS

1. IN RECENT WEEKS SENIOR BDG OFFICIALS HAVE INQUIRED ABOUT PROGRESS OF BANGLADESH'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN GSP TREATMENT UNDER U.S. TRADE ACT FOR ITS HANDICRAFT EXPORTS.
2. COMMERCE MINISTER SAIFUR RAHMAN RAISED THIS INFORMALLY WITH ECONOFF AT EMBASSY'S JULY 4 RECEPTION. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED PROPOSAL WITH UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE HARMON DURING VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN APRIL AND THAT THE BDG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WAS PURSUING THIS WITH DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. CHIEF OF COMMERCE MINISTRY'S EXPORT DIVISION ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BDG'S INITIATIVE IN RECENT TALK WITH ECONOFF.
3. SAIFUR RAHMAN'S PRINCIPAL DEPUTY, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE MATIUR RAHMAN SUMMONED ECONOFF TO HIS OFFICE JULY 20 TO FORMALLY CONVEY TO EMBASSY BDG'S STRONG INTEREST IN OBTAINING GSP TREATMENT FOR BANGLADESHI JUTE, COTTON

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AND BAMBOO HANDICRAFT ITEMS.

4. RAHMAN SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED BDG REQUESTS FOR ELIMINATION OF U.S. TARIFFS ON FOLLOWING JUTE PRODUCTS: BRAIDED RUGS (8 PERCENT); WOVEN POT HANGERS (20 PERCENT); MATS AND COASTERS (6.5 PERCENT); BELTS (21 PERCENT); AND SHOULDER BAGS (6.5 PERCENT). HE ADDED THAT

GSP TREATMENT ALSO REQUESTED FOR OTHER BANGLADESHI
JUTE, COTTON AND BAMBOO HANDICRAFTS.

5. RAHMAN STRESSED MAJOR EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OF HANDI-
CRAFT EXPORTS TO POOR, UNEMPLOYED VILLAGERS, ESPECIALLY
WOMEN, AS WELL AS SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN EXCHANGE POTENTIAL.
HE SAID PRESIDENT ZIA IN RECENT WEEKS HAD PRESSED MIN-
ISTRY OF COMMERCE TO EXPLOIT UNDEVELOPED EXPORT POTENTIAL
IN ALL AREAS, AND THAT HANDICRAFTS ARE PROMISING GROWTH
SECTOR.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY BELIEVES GSP TREATMENT
FOR BANGLADESHI HANDICRAFTS WOULD BE MODEST, BUT
USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO BDG DEVELOPMENT. IT WOULD SUPPORT
USAID EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE MORE EXTENSIVE SELF-HELP
AND EMPLOYMENT-GENERATING PROGRAMS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE
STATUS REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE'S REVIEW OF BDG
REQUEST.
BERGESEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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